

# House File 2176 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY WENTHE

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the incorporation of character education into  
2 the curricula of students in grades one through nine, and  
3 providing effective and applicability dates.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 5736YH 82  
6 ak/nh/24

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1 1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code  
1 2 Supplement 2007, are amended to read as follows:  
1 3 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one  
1 4 through six: English=language arts, social studies,  
1 5 mathematics, science, health, age=appropriate and  
1 6 research-based human growth and development, physical  
1 7 education, traffic safety, music, ~~and~~ visual art, ~~and~~  
1 8 ~~age=appropriate character education, including lessons in~~  
1 9 ~~personal conduct~~. The health curriculum shall include the

1 10 characteristics of communicable diseases including acquired  
1 11 immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of  
1 12 accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for  
1 13 implementing the elementary program.

1 14 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and  
1 15 eight: English=language arts; social studies; mathematics;  
1 16 science; health; age=appropriate and research-based human  
1 17 growth and development; family, consumer, career, and  
1 18 technology education; physical education; music; ~~and~~ visual  
1 19 art; ~~and age=appropriate character education, including~~  
1 20 ~~lessons in personal conduct~~. The health curriculum shall  
1 21 include age=appropriate and research-based information  
1 22 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted  
1 23 diseases, including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to  
1 24 prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The  
1 25 state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt  
1 26 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades  
1 27 seven and eight. However, this subsection shall not apply to  
1 28 the teaching of family, consumer, career, and technology  
1 29 education in nonpublic schools. For purposes of this section,  
1 30 "age=appropriate", "HPV", and "research-based" mean the same  
1 31 as defined in section 279.50.

1 32 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, Code Supplement  
1 33 2007, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

1 34 NEW PARAGRAPH. k. One-half unit of character education,  
1 35 including lessons in personal conduct, to be taught in the  
2 1 first year.

2 2 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
2 3 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
2 4 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
2 5 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
2 6 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
2 7 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
2 8 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section  
2 9 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be  
2 10 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
2 11 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

2 12 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE AND APPLICABILITY DATES. This Act,  
2 13 being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon  
2 14 enactment and applies to school years beginning on or after  
2 15 July 1, 2008.

## EXPLANATION

2 17 This bill requires that character education, including  
2 18 lessons in personal conduct, be taught to students in grades  
2 19 one through nine in public and nonpublic schools in order for

2 20 the schools to be accredited by the department of education.  
2 21 The character education must be age-appropriate for students  
2 22 in grades one through eight. The bill requires that character  
2 23 education become a required one-half credit course in ninth  
2 24 grade.  
2 25 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
2 26 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the cost of any state  
2 27 mandate included in the bill be paid by a school district from  
2 28 state school foundation aid received by the school district  
2 29 under Code section 257.16. The specification is deemed to  
2 30 constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
2 31 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
2 32 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
2 33 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
2 34 mandates in the bill. This Act becomes effective upon  
2 35 enactment and applies to school years beginning on or after  
3 1 July 1, 2008.  
3 2 LSB 5736YH 82  
3 3 ak/nh/24